PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 020375-003900US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Mark Thompson et al.

Application No.: 10/032,796

Filed: December 26, 2001

For: FORMS AUDITING SYSTEMS AND METHODS

Art Unit: 2171

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks

IN THE CLAIM

1.   (Amended) A method for auditing forms, the method comprising:

issuing a request to provide a form identifier that is associated with a form;

receiving the identifier at a host computer;

verifying with the host computer whether the identifier is a valid identifier for the form being used.

1   2.   (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the request is issued

2   from a terminal having a processor that is in communication with the host computer, and

3   further comprising logging an error if the identifier is not valid.

1   3.   (As filed) A method as in claim 2, wherein the request is sent from

2   the host computer to the terminal.

1   4   (As filed) A method as in claim 1, where the request is issued

2   from a customer service operator over a phone.

1   5.   (As filed) A method as in claim 2, wherein the identifier is

2   received at the host computer from the terminal.

1   6.   (As filed) A method as in claim 1, wherein the host computer

2   includes an associated database, and wherein the identifier is verified by comparing the

3   identifier with a list of valid identifiers in the database.

1   7.   (As filed) A method as in claim 1, further comprising determining

2   whether an appropriate form has already been ordered.

1   8.   (As filed) A method as in claim 7, wherein if an appropriate form

2   has not been ordered, placing an order for an appropriate form.

1   9.   (As filed) A method as in claim 8, further comprising evaluating

2   whether the ordered form is received by a user.

1   10.   (As filed) A method as in claim 9, further comprising transmitting

2   an identifier for a replacement form to the host computer.

1   11.   (As filed) A forms auditing system, comprising:

2   a host computer; and

3   a database associated with the host computer, the database having a record

4   of a set of forms and a valid identifier for each of the forms;

5   wherein the host computer is configured to receive an identifier in

6   response to a request to audit a form, and to verify whether the identifier is a valid

7   identifier for the audited form by comparing the identifier with the identifiers in the

8   database, and to produce a record in the database of the comparison.

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1　　　　　12.　(As filed)　A system as in claim 11, further comprising a terminal

2　having a processor, wherein the terminal is configured to receive the identifier of the

3　form being audited and to electronically send the identifier to the host computer.

1　　　　　13.　(As filed)　A system as in claim 12, wherein the terminal is

2　configured to produce an audit screen having a region for inputting the identifier.
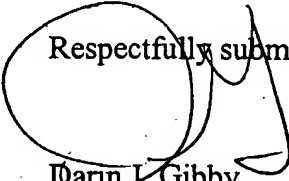
1　　　　　14.　(As filed)　A system as in claim 13, wherein the terminal is

2　configured to produce the audit screen based on information sent to the terminal from the

3　host computer.

1　　　　　15.　(As filed)　A system as in claim 11, wherein the host computer is

2　configured to generate in error report if the identifier of the form being audited is not

3　valid.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended.　Claims 1-15 remain pending.

Examination of the claims, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Darin J. Gibby
Reg. No. 38,464

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: (303) 571-4000
Fax: (303) 571-4321
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1   1.   (Amended) A method for auditing forms, the method comprising:

2   issuing a request to provide a form identifier that is associated with a

3   form;

4   receiving the identifier at a host computer;

5   verifying with the host computer whether the identifier is a valid identifier

6   for the form being used[;

7   **logging an error if the identifier is not valid]**.

1   2.   (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the request is issued

2   from a terminal having a processor that is in communication with the host computer, and

3   further comprising logging an error if the identifier is not valid.

1   3.   (As filed) A method as in claim 2, wherein the request is sent from

2   the host computer to the terminal.

1   4.   (As filed) A method as in claim 1, where the request is issued

2   from a customer service operator over a phone.

1   5.   (As filed) A method as in claim 2, wherein the identifier is

2   received at the host computer from the terminal.

1   6.   (As filed) A method as in claim 1, wherein the host computer

2   includes an associated database, and wherein the identifier is verified by comparing the

3   identifier with a list of valid identifiers in the database.

1   7.   (As filed) A method as in claim 1, further comprising determining

2   whether an appropriate form has already been ordered.

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1   8. (As filed) A method as in claim 7, wherein if an appropriate form

2 has not been ordered, placing an order for an appropriate form.

1   9. (As filed) A method as in claim 8, further comprising evaluating

2 whether the ordered form is received by a user.

1   10. (As filed) A method as in claim 9, further comprising transmitting

2 an identifier for a replacement form to the host computer.

1   11. (As filed) A forms auditing system, comprising:

2   a host computer; and

3   a database associated with the host computer, the database having a record

4 of a set of forms and a valid identifier for each of the forms;

5   wherein the host computer is configured to receive an identifier in

6 response to a request to audit a form, and to verify whether the identifier is a valid

7 identifier for the audited form by comparing the identifier with the identifiers in the

8 database, and to produce a record in the database of the comparison.

1   12. (As filed) A system as in claim 11, further comprising a terminal

2 having a processor, wherein the terminal is configured to receive the identifier of the

3 form being audited and to electronically send the identifier to the host computer.

1   13. (As filed) A system as in claim 12, wherein the terminal is

2 configured to produce an audit screen having a region for inputting the identifier.

1   14. (As filed) A system as in claim 13, wherein the terminal is

2 configured to produce the audit screen based on information sent to the terminal from the

3 host computer.

1   15.   (As filed) A system as in claim 11, wherein the host computer is

2   configured to generate in error report if the identifier of the form being audited is not

3   valid.